

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 INT-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6543

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS COMMENT ON THE EC SUMMIT

1. THE BRITISH PRESS COMMENT OF DECEMBER 17 ON THE EC SUMMIT VARIED WIDELY. ASSESSMENTS RANGED FROM "A SERIOUS DISAPPOINTMENT" (THE FINANCIAL TIMES) TO "A GOOD AND SURPRISING RESULT" (THE GUARDIAN).

2. AN FT EDITORIAL SAID THAT THERE WAS LITTLE EVIDENCE

AT COPENHAGEN OF MUCH MEETING OF MINDS ON THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS FACING THE COMMUNITY. THE NINE GOT CLOSER THAN BEFORE TO ACKNOWLEDGING THE PRINCIPLE OF

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COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY IN THE FACE OF THE ENERGY CRISIS,
BUT FELL SHORT OF AN OPEN COMMITMENT TO SHARE

ENERGY RESOURCES. "RATHER MORE SERIOUS IS THE ABSENCE OF ANY RESPONSE TO DR. KISSINGER'S PLAN FOR AN ENERGY ACTION GROUP." THERE IS A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE THE FT SAID BETWEEN THE KIND OF STUDY THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS PROPOSED AND ACTION. "THE FACT IS THAT EUROPE CANNOT EXPECT TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE LONG-TERM ENERGY PROBLEM BY ITSELF."

3. AN EDITORIAL IN "THE TIMES" SAID THAT "A START" WAS MADE AT COPENHAGEN TOWARD STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY. ALTHOUGH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MEETING BETWEEN THE NINE AND THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE "BIZARRE", MEETINGS BETWEEN OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS ARE IMPORTANT, BECAUSE BOTH MUST LEARN TO WORK WITH EACH OTHER. ALTHOUGH THE WORD "SOLIDARITY" WAS MISSING FROM THE COMMUNIQUE, THE NINE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE THE DUTCH ARE NOT GOING TO BE LEFT IN THE LURCH. DR. KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY ACTION GROUP WAS GIVEN "A CAUTIOUS ENDORSEMENT."

4. A "GUARDIAN EDITORIAL SAID THAT EUROPE EMERGED FROM THE SUMMIT "IN BETTER SHAPE THAN IT WENT IN." THE NINE TOOK THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS A SYSTEM OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND A COMMON ENERGY POLICY. THEY SIGNALLED TO DR. KISSINGER "THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO DO BUSINESS." AND, DESPITE THE LINE TAKEN BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THEY DID NOT YIELD FURTHER TO THE HEAVY ARAB PRESSURE TO TAKE A MORE ANTI-ISRAELI STAND. "THERE IS THE BASIS IN COPENHAGEN FOR REVITALIZING AN IDEA OF EUROPE WHICH WAS BECOMING MORIBUND."

5. "THE DAILY TELEGRAPH" SAID THAT THE NINE EMERGED "ABOUT AS WELL AS COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED," GIVEN THEIR DEEP DIVISIONS OVER THE OIL CRISIS. THE MACHINERY SET IN MOTION TO DEAL WITH THE CRISIS IS "DISAPPOINTINGLY SLOW AND PONDEROUS," HOWEVER. THE PLAN TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE OECD FRAMEWORK IS SENSIBLE.

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